

WILMSLOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1919.



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Report of the Medical Officer of Health FOR THE YEAR 1919.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

THE WILMSLOW URBAN DISTRICT is situated in the County of Chester, about 10 miles south of Manchester. The London and North Western Railway from Manchester to Crewe runs through it. It forms part of the Cheshire plain, and is traversed by the valley of the river Bollin. Its area comprises 4,969 acres. The subsoil is chiefly sand and clay. On Lindow Common, and in its neighbourhood, there is peat. The district is partly suburban and partly rural in character. The population was 8,153 at the census of 1911, as against 7,361 in 1901, being an increase of 792, or 10.7 per cent. Between 1891 and 1901 the increase was 14.4 per cent. The population was estimated to be 8,553 in 1919. A considerable part of the population is residential, chiefly composed of persons engaged in business in Manchester, with their families. There are no large works in the district, but three underclothing manufactories, employing a number of girls, have been recently established. Some of the inhabitants work at a cotton mill at Styal, and some at a bleach works at Handforth : places just outside the district. Many are employed in the ordinary local trades, whilst others are occupied with agriculture.

As a rule there is not much unemployment. Persons in receipt of poor relief are mostly aged and past work. There is no hospital in the district. The inhabitants make use of the hospitals in Manchester and Stockport, to which the Council are subscribers.

VITAL STATISTICS.

100 births (50 male and 50 female) and 93 deaths (42 male and 51 female) were registered in 1919. 12 births were illegitimate. The birth-rate was 11.6 per 1,000 living, as against 14 for 1918. The death-rate was 11.3, as against 15.3 for 1918. For England and Wales the birth-rate was 18.5, and the death-rate 13.8. For 96 great towns, including London (census populations exceeding 50,000), the rates were 19 and 13.8, and for 148 smaller towns (census populations 20,000—50,000) they were 18.3 and 12.6.

There were 6 deaths of infants under 1 year, one of these being illegitimate. The infant mortality—i.e., the death-rate of infants under 1 year per 1,000 births was 60, as against 35 in 1918.

The infant mortality for England and Wales was 89 ; for the great towns 93, and for the smaller towns 90.

Causes of Death in Infants :—

Broncho-pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	2
Acute Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	1
Premature birth	...	...	...	...	...	1
Congenital debility	...	...	...	...	...	1
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	1

Causes of Death at All Ages : —**Males. Females.**

Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	5
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	6
Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	6
Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	—
Organic heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	4
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	7
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3
Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	—
Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	—
Nephritis and Bright's disease	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2
Congenital debility, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	—
Other defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	17	...	17
Special Causes (included above)	...	...	...	...	...	—	...	—
Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	—

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY.

The new works at Kinder belonging to the Stockport Corporation were opened in 1912, and the district is now supplied from this source.

The supply is constant, good, and ample for all needs.

No softening treatment is required.

Some parts of the rural area are supplied from wells.

No complaints were made during the year.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No complaints of pollution were made during the year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The sewage is treated by :—

(a) Precipitation tanks and land ;

(b) Broad irrigation.

No complaints were made during the year.

The rural parts of Morley, Hough, and Dean Row are without a proper sewerage system.

No new works were carried out during the year.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

This consists of 967 water closets and 960 privies, 25 per cent. of the latter being in the rural areas. No privies were converted to water closets during the year.

SCAVENGING.

The Council now undertakes the scavenging of the district. The dry refuse is put on farm land to fill up hollows, and the nightsoil on bog and farm land to be used as manure. Thirty-six houses have had moveable ashbins with proper covering substituted for fixed receptacles during the year.

TABULAR STATEMENT OF INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st, 1919.

A		B		C		
Number and Nature of Inspections made.		Number of Notices served.		Result of Service of Notices.		
		Number.	Statutory. Informal.	Notices com-plied with.	Remaining in hand	Prosecutions Instituted. Pending.
1.	Dwelling Houses (general inspections)	222	—	—	—	—
2.	Courts, Yards, Passages	5	1	1	—	—
3.	Privy-Middens, Earth or Pail Closets	23	11	11	—	—
4.	House Drainage	13	10	10	—	—
5.	Ditches, Watercourses, etc.	1	1	1	—	—
6.	Offensive Accumulations	1	1	1	—	—
7.	The Keeping of Animals (P.H.A., 1875, S. 91 (3))	1	1	—	1	—
8.	Slaughterhouses (Private)	6	—	—	—	—
9.	Piggeries	2	—	—	—	—
10.	Factories	4	—	—	—	—
11.	Common Lodging Houses	4	—	—	—	—
12.	Infectious Disease Inquiries and Revisits	25	—	—	—	—
Totals		307	1	24	25	

(Signed)

A. S. CARTWRIGHT.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS.

There is one common lodging-house. It has been inspected and found to be in a fairly satisfactory structural condition and satisfactory as regards cleanliness.

There are no cellar-dwellings or offensive trades.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary condition and water supply are satisfactory.

The Council School was closed in March during the influenza epidemic. The Chancel Lane (Infants) School was closed in June and July, and both Mixed and Infants' Departments in December on account of the prevalence of measles.

Dean Row School was closed in November owing to an outbreak of chickenpox.

FOOD.

(a)—MILK SUPPLY.

There are 40 cowsheds, 4 dairies, and 1 milkshop on the register. The quality of milk supplied is satisfactory.

Regulations are in force under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops' Order.

The premises and cows are fairly well kept.

No action was taken during the year by your Council in regard to tuberculous milk. There is no inspection of cows for tuberculosis.

(b)—OTHER FOODS.

There is no systematic inspection of foods carried out in this district.

The bakehouses are in a satisfactory sanitary condition.

There are 6 slaughterhouses in the district. The modern slaughterhouses comply with all requirements, and the others are in a fairly satisfactory condition. One carcase was condemned for tuberculosis during the year.

(c)—SALE OF FOODS AND DRUGS ACTS.

No work was done by the local authority under these Acts.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

160 cases of infectious disease were notified, viz.:—

- 1 cerebro-spinal fever.
- 4 scarlet fever.
- 1 diphtheria.
- 5 broncho-pneumonia.
- 2 malaria.
- 1 erysipelas.
- 89 measles.
- 57 rubella (german measles).

The case of cerebro-spinal fever (fatal) was that of a boy aged 13. Meningococci were found in the cerebro-spinal fluid. Four "contacts" from this case were examined at the Manchester Public Health Laboratory with negative results.

One case of scarlet fever was removed to Monsall Fever Hospital. Two cases were in the same house. All recovered. The only case of diphtheria was removed to Monsall Fever Hospital and recovered.

The five cases of pneumonia notified were all influenzal. Four proved fatal.

Both cases of malaria were of soldiers who had contracted the disease abroad.

An epidemic of measles and rubella (german measles) prevailed through May, June, and July, 42 cases of measles and 56 of rubella being notified. The outbreak came to an end in August, in which month five cases of measles only were reported. In November measles reappeared, and was prevalent during December (40 cases notified). There were no deaths from measles or rubella.

Cases of non-notifiable infectious disease were reported from the schools.

Eighty-nine cases of mumps were reported from the Fulshaw C.E. School in the spring.

Chickenpox was prevalent at Dean Row in November.

Epidemic influenza returned about the second week in February. The outbreak was widespread, and lasted seven or eight weeks. Many children were attacked. Six deaths occurred, broncho-pneumonia accounting for four of these. The ages ranged from 26 to 64. Four were females and two males.

Leaflets of advice were distributed.

A few cases of influenza occurred in the autumn, one death (female aged 13) being reported.

The Council has arranged for the examination of pathological specimens at the Manchester Public Health Laboratory as an aid to diagnosis.

During the year 1919, specimens sent for bacteriological examination included five throat swabs (diphtheria negative in all), one specimen of blood from an enteric suspect (result negative), and one of sputum (tuberculosis negative).

Four nasopharyngeal swabs from cerebro-spinal fever contacts were also examined, with negative results.

Antitoxin is provided for use in the treatment of diphtheria, and was so used in the one case that occurred before its removal to hospital.

After notification of a case of infectious disease the premises were visited and examined for sanitary defects by the Sanitary Inspector, and enquiries made concerning contacts, etc. In cases treated at home arrangements as regards isolation were made and disinfection of premises, bedding, etc., carried out. Premises were disinfected by spraying with formaldehyde. By arrangements made between the Bucklow Joint Hospital Board and the Manchester Corporation the latter will provide a van and remove infected clothing, bedding, etc., to a disinfecting station.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Six cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified : 4 males and 2 females.

Notifications of the pulmonary form of the disease is fairly complete, though not always as early as is desirable. "Glands" are seldom notified.

Visits were paid and measures of disinfection carried out:

SMALL-POX.

No (a) primary vaccinations or (b) re-vaccinations were performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Small-pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

1.—The staff consists only of an Inspector of Nuisances, who is also Surveyor.

2.—HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

By arrangement with the Manchester Corporation, the Bucklow Joint Hospital Board, on which the Wilmslow Urban District Council is represented, is provided with a sufficient number of beds at Monsall Hospital for infectious diseases, including small-pox. A case of scarlet fever and one of diphtheria were removed to hospital during the year.

The Baguley Sanatorium has been converted into a sanatorium for tuberculosis by the Manchester Corporation. The Bucklow Joint Hospital Board has the use of 15 beds in this institution.

3.—ADMINISTRATION OF LOCAL ACTS, SPECIAL LOCAL ORDERS, OR GENERAL ADOPTIVE ACTS IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT.

(a) Local Acts or Special Local Orders—none.

(b) Adoptive Acts :

The following are in force in the district :—

(a) Infectious Diseases Prevention Act.

(b) Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890, Part III.

(c) Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907.

Sections 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33, comprised in Part II. ;

Sections 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 49 and 50, comprised in Part III. ;

Sections 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, comprised in Part IV. ; and Part V.

4.—CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL WORK.

No chemical work was done during the year.

The bacteriological work is referred to above.

HOUSING.

(I.)—General Housing Conditions in the District :—

- (1) Total number of houses : 2,080.
 Number for the working classes : 1,285.
 No new houses for the working classes were erected during the year, nor are there any in course of erection.
- (2) Population : 8,553.
- (3) (a) There is a considerable shortage of houses.
 (b) The Council has decided that 100 cottages are required under the recent Housing Act.

(II.)—Overcrowding :—

- (1) There are some cases of overcrowding.
- (2) Due to shortage of houses and lack of three bedrooms in houses.
- (3) No measures to deal with overcrowding (apart from erection of new houses) have been taken or are contemplated.
- (4) No action has been taken in regard to cases of overcrowding.

(III.)—Fitness of Houses :—

- (1) (a) The general standard of housing in the district is satisfactory.
 (b) The general character of the defects found to exist in unfit houses :—
 1. Defectiveness of general structural condition due to age.
 2. Insufficiency of ventilation.
- (2) No action has been taken as regards unfit houses under (a) the Public Health Acts or (b) the Housing Acts.
- (3)
- (4) Conditions, so far as they affect housing, as regards water supply, closet accommodation, and refuse disposal, are fairly satisfactory. No measures taken during the year in these matters.

(IV.)—Unhealthy Areas :—

No action taken.

(V.)—Bye-Laws relating to Houses, to Houses Let in Lodgings, and to Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.:—

- (1) The working of existing bye-laws is fairly satisfactory.
- (2) There is need for revision of existing bye-laws.

(VI.)—General and Miscellaneous :—

No action has been taken during the year bearing on the public health, not covered by the above particulars, in connection with overcrowding, insanitary property, and housing, whether under the Housing Acts or the Public Health Acts.

(VII.)—Appendices, Statistics for the 12 months ended 31st December, 1919 :—

- (1) No complaints were made by householders that any dwelling house was unfit for human habitation.
- (2) Action under Section 17 of the Housing Act of 1909 :—
 - (a) Seven dwelling-houses were inspected.
 - (b) No dwelling-houses were considered to be unfit for human habitation.
 - (c) No dwelling-houses, the defects in which were remedied without the making of closing orders.
- (3) Action under Section 28 of the Housing Act, 1919 :—

None.
- (4) Closing Orders :—
 - (a) No representations were made to the local authority with a view to the making of closing orders.
- (5) Demolition Orders :—
 - (a) No demolition orders were made.
- (6) No dwelling-houses were demolished voluntarily.
- (7) Obstructive Buildings :—
 - (a) No representations were made (Section 38 of the Housing Act of 1890).
- (8) The staff engaged in housing work consists of the Surveyor only.

ALFRED BYERS,

Medical Officer of Health.